

Rare Plants of Louisiana



Smilax auriculata - eared greenbrier Greenbrier Family (Smilacaceae)

Rarity Rank: S2/G4?

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure



Photo by Gil Nelson

Range: AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC

Recognition:

- Low-growing evergreen vine with scattered prickles; climbing over and intertwined in low shrubs or on its own
- Leaves 5 to 12 cm long, blades narrowly ovate to ovate-elliptic, prominently reticulate veined
- Leaf apices usually rounded and with an abrupt point
- Leaf veins on lower surface slightly raised above leaf surface
- Berries ripening reddish to purple and finally to black, usually glaucous

Flowering Time: April to July

Light Requirement: Full sun

Wetland Indicator Status:

FACU – usually occurs in uplands but occasionally found in wetlands

Habitat:

Smilax auriculata is generally a species of deep sands. Louisiana occurrences are on barrier islands (recorded for Chandeleur Islands) and inland on stream terrace sandy woodlands.

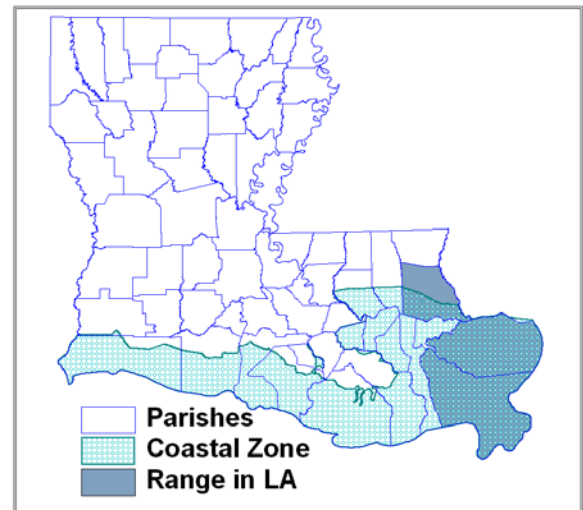
Threats:

- Erosion of barrier islands
- Inland occurrences are threatened by conversion of habitat to pine plantations and concomitant dense tree spacing and fire exclusion

Beneficial Management Practices:

- Any activities that prolong the lives of barrier islands, particularly conserving interior sandy/scrub habitat
- Thinning and burning sandy woodland habitat inland

LA River Basins: Pearl, Pontchartrain, Mississippi, Barataria



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References:

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- USDA, NRCS. 2007. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

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